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**Congress of the United States**  
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March 16, 2020

Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Admiral Giroir,

I write today to strongly urge you to quickly take action to approve more automated testing as well as more reagents, the needed chemicals to make the tests work. Specifically, I ask you to expedite approval for Cepheid's application to do automated testing, as they are working in conjunction with a major local hospital in my district on coronavirus testing. As the new Testing Czar, you have the unique ability to cut through red tape across multiple agencies. I urge you to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as our states, cities, hospitals, labs, and manufactures to ensure that more automated testing equipment and reagents are quickly approved so that we can dramatically scale our testing capacity as soon as possible.

As you know, one of the major companies that makes this automated testing equipment is GenMark. They are still waiting on federal approval before their equipment can be used for testing. I am concerned as GenMark's application was submitted to the federal government on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> - one week ago tomorrow. In my calls with the FDA, I have been told they are working to make approvals in 24-28 hours, so this delay is very concerning.

Additionally, I urge you to work closely with manufacturers to urge more of them to begin making coronavirus testing equipment and reagents. Finally, we need to be working closely with public and private labs around the nation to ensure that as many of them are stepping up to do coronavirus testing as possible. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Max Rose  
Member of Congress